

Ficus benghalensis (green) & altissima (variegated)

Ficus Audrey

The Ficus Audrey is native to India and Pakistan. It can grow to be up to 100 feet tall and several acres wide in the wild. This giant tree is considered sacred in India and it's not uncommon to find their temples perched underneath its expansive shade. While the indoor variety won't grow to be quite as impressive, it can still get up to 10 feet tall. The Ficus Audrey is a unique woody plant with a light trunk, vibrant green leaves cut by light green veins or brilliant lemon-lime variegation. It is a cousin of the Fiddle Leaf Fig and is equally striking, but is slightly easier to care for.

Light: Needs bright, indirect light with no more than 1-2 hours of direct sunlight per day. Low light can result in leaf drop and slow growth.

Water: Before watering ensure that the top 2-3" of the soil is dry. All Ficus trees don't like to be overwatering. This Ficus grow best in evenly and consistently moist soil, with small drought periods between watering. Also, depending on the amount of sunlight yours gets, you'll probably have to give it a good watering once a week during the Spring and Summer and once every other week during Winter.



Fertilizer: Fertilize monthly (Spring and Summer months) while actively growing with a well-balanced fertilizer at ½ the recommended strength. Stop feeding during the Winter months as this is when the plant goes into dormancy.

TIPS:

East-facing - This is the best exposure, because you can put your Ficus right up to the panes and let them enjoy gentle direct morning sun.

West-facing - The long daylight hours are great, but be prepared to move their pot a foot or so back if necessary. They can take late afternoon sun if it's not too hot.

South-facing - This is the brightest exposure and is often a great winter option. Depending upon your latitude, you may need to pull them a few feet from the window if the sun is too direct.